

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**Claims 1 – 6 (Canceled).**

7. (Currently Amended): **[[A]] An isolated** 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment of said protein having a length of at least 33 amino acids, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said protein or immunogenic fragment thereof has a sequence homology of at least 93 % **[[to]] with** the amino acid sequence **[[as]]** depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2 **and is immunoreactive with antisera from Streptococcus uberis infected cows.**

8. (Currently Amended): **[[A]] The isolated** 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof according to claim 7, having an amino acid sequence homology of at least ~~94%, preferably 95 %, more preferably~~ 96% **[[to]] with** the amino acid sequence **[[as]]** depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2.

9. (Currently Amended): **[[A]] The isolated** 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment of said protein~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said protein or immunogenic fragment is encoded by **[[a]] the** nucleic acid sequence ~~according to claim 1 or 2, set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.~~

10. (Currently Amended): **[[A]] An immunogenic composition comprising an isolated** 22.5 kD *Streptococcus uberis* protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 7 ~~for use in a vaccine.~~

**Claims 11 – 20 (Canceled).**